

REMARKS

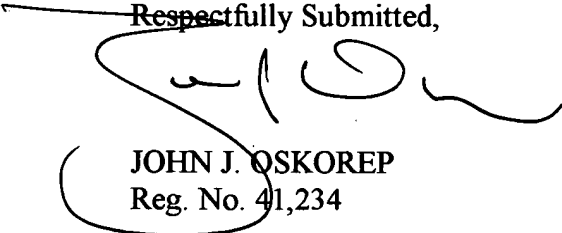
The Applicant respectfully submits this Preliminary Amendment for the above-referenced *DIVISIONAL* patent application which is based on U.S. Application No. 10/156,633 filed on 05/28/2002 and entitled "Method Of Protecting The Pole Piece Of A Magnetic Head During The Ion Mill Patterning Of The Yoke".

A restriction requirement for the *parent* U.S. Application No. 10/156,633 was mailed on November 24 2003. In response to the claim restriction, claims 1-9 were elected, examined, and allowed for that application.

The present Preliminary Amendment for this copending *DIVISIONAL* application cancels claims 1-18 of the originally-filed parent application, keeps previously-unelected method claims 19-25 with an amendment to broaden claim 19, and adds new method claims 26-35 which are based on the previously-unelected method claims 19-25. *Therefore claims 19-35 are pending for examination.* The Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Thank you. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if necessary to further expedite this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,


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